

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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P R 111420Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7786

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 5 GARBLED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI TROOPS STORM BIR ZEIT COLLEGE, WIDESPREAD

UNREST ON WB INTENSIFIES

REF: JERUSALEM 332

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELIS STORM BIRZEIT COLLEGE; THREE MORE CITY COUNCILS RESIGN IN PROTEST. UNREST WIDESPREAD ON WB. NABLUS MAYOR LINKS WB DEMANDS WITH ISRAELI EXPROPRIATION OF ARAB LANDS IN ISRAEL. RUMOR OF COORDINATED ARAB ACTION TO SUPPORT WB. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI TROOPS STORMED A MEN'S DORM AT BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY

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MARCH 10 FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF RESISTANCE

IN NABLUS. THIRTEEN STUDENTS WERE INJURED; FIVER WERE ARRESTED AND FINED IL 3,500 EACH, ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES. THE UNIVERSITY HAS ESTIMATED MATERIAL DAMAGES AT IL 50,000. CONGEN OFFICER OBSERVED EXTENSIVE AND GRATUITOUS DAMAGE (BROKEN WINDOWS, MIRRORS AND DOORS) BUT ESTIMATES IT AT LESS THAN UNIVERSITY FIGURE. AMERICAN PROFESSORS WHO WITNESSED CLASH SAID DEMONSTRATION OCCURRED WELL AWAY FROM DORM AND HAD DISPERSED BY THE TIME ISRAELIS STORMED BUILDING. ONE STUDENT PULLED FROM SHOWERS, OTHERS FROM SICK BEDS AND THEIR STUDY TABLES. UNIVERSITY HAS ANNOUNCED A FOUR-DAY STRIKE IN PROTEST. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET IN JERUSALEM MARCH 12 TO CONSIDER SITUATION.

3. MAYORS AND CITY COUNCILS OF RAMALLAH, BIREH AND BIR ZEIT RESIGNED MARCH 10 IN PROTEST OF ISRAELI TROPPS' ACTION AT BIR ZEIT. CONGEN LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCE WHO SAW RAMALLAH MAYOR KARIM KHALAF MARCH 11 THAT RESIGNATIONS ARE FINAL. STRONG SECURITY PRESENCE IN RAMALLAH, BUT CITY OPEN EXCEPT FOR MANY SCHOOLS.

4. MEANWHILE, PRESS REPORTS TWO EXPLOSIONS AND SHOOTING IN NABLUS MARCH 10. JERUSALEM POST CALLS SITUATION "WORST CRISIS (ON WB) SINCE 1967." MAYOR MA'ZUZ AL MASRI, WHO RETURNED YESTERDAY FROM CAIRO, HAS SUPPORTED CITY COUNTIL'S STAND. IN ADDITION TO DEMANDS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, AL MASRI HAS ADDED NON-EXPROPRIATION OF ANY ARAB LAND INCLUDING ARAB LANDS IN ISRAELI, SPECIFICALLY GALILEE, ACCORDI SOURCE IN TOUCH WITH THE MAYOR.

5. CONGEN ALSO HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT SHEIKH GHOSHA OF SHARI' COURT IN AMMAN IS CONTACTING ARAB STATES TO ORGANIZE GREEN MARCH A LA MOROCCO IN SUPPORT OF WEST BANKERS.

6. SUPPORT FOR NABLUS AND BIR ZEIT ON WB ITSELF IS WIDESPREAD. BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY, WITH CLEARLY CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION, HAS SUSPENDED CLASSES FOR THREE DAYS IN SOLIDARITY WITH BIR ZEIT AND OTHER WB EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. SUPPORT AND UNREAST ALSO REPORTED IN TULKARM AND JERICHO.

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